

ARTICLES

for the

AGREEMENT GROUP EUROPEAN TESTING FOR QUALITY LABEL SCHEMES IN THE ALUMINIUM FINISHING INDUSTRY (QUALISURFAL)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Agreement for testing for Quality Label Schemes in the Aluminium Finishing Industry (QUALISURFAL) is established under the Specifications for the Quality Labels for Sulphuric Acid-Based Anodizing of Aluminium QUALANOD and the Specifications for a Quality Label for Paint, Lacquer and Powder Coatings on Aluminium for Architectural Applications QUALICOAT.
- 1.2. Under this agreement the terminology is the one defined and used in the Specifications mentioned in section 5.1.
- 1.3. Under this Agreement, harmonized test reports will be issued, based on harmonized procedures.
- 1.4. Object of this Agreement is to define the functioning Terms of Reference that will allow mutual recognition of test reports and Quality Label Certificates.

2. Background

- 2.1. The European Quality Schemes QUALANOD in use since 1974 and QUALICOAT in use since 1986 are based on international standards for testing. European Standards (EN) shall be introduced to replace the ISO Standards as soon as these are adopted and released. The testing procedures for internal as well as external testing are described in the Specifications of QUALANOD and QUALICOAT.
- 2.2. Qualified and independent laboratories and inspectors are entrusted with the external testing. External inspections are made without prior notice 2-5 times a year.
- 2.3. The market requires that testing of products for conformance to the QUALANOD and QUALICOAT Specifications must be harmonized and agreed through accreditation for test laboratories and inspectors recognized worldwide under ISO/IEC/EN 17025.

3. Participating members

- 3.1. All laboratories approved by QUALANOD and/or QUALICOAT should apply for membership in QUALISURFAL. It will, however, be necessary for any applying laboratory to meet the criteria set out in this Specification.
- 3.2. Approved laboratories must be accredited according to ISO/IEC/EN 17025 series. A non-accredited laboratory may apply for provisional membership if it satisfies the following criteria:
 - 3.2.1 It has undertaken to comply with the ISO/IEC/EN 17025 series.
 - 3.2.2 It has been satisfactorily audited against the operational requirements of this Agreement.
 - 3.2.3 It has undertaken to apply for independent accreditation by a defined date.
- 3.3. There shall be one vote per laboratory, with a simple majority being decisive. All other participating members are represented at the meetings of the Agreement Group as observing members.
- 3.4. QUALISURFAL shall fix the modalities for adopting laboratories for provisional membership (control visits by accredited laboratories etc.).
- 3.5. When entering QUALISURFAL participating laboratories shall agree to accept all current and future test reports issued within the Agreement.

4. Convenor, Secretariat of QUALISURFAL

- 4.1. The participating members having a vote according to section 3.1. above shall elect a Convenor and his proxy. The Convenor and his proxy should be representatives of an accredited laboratory. The term of office will be 3 years with a possibility of re-election for one term.
- 4.2. The Convenor shall call for the meetings and fix the Agenda. He shall also chair the meetings. In his absence, the proxy shall take over.
- 4.3. A Secretariat shall be appointed to assist the Convenor e.g. for writing and translating minutes and other documents and as liaison to the Label Organisations QUALANOD and QUALICOAT.
- 4.4. QUALISURFAL fixes the modalities for the regular review of the compliance of participating bodies with the arrangement rules.
- 4.5. QUALISURFAL decides on actions to be taken in case of non-compliance with the arrangement rules by one of the participating bodies.

- 4.6 If a member of QUALISURFAL voluntarily withdraws from accreditation according to ISO/IEC/EN 17025, this shall be a compelling reason to expel the member from QUALISURFAL. If a member loses the accreditation but reapplies for it immediately, the membership of QUALISURFAL shall become provisional in accordance with clause 3.2 of these Articles.

5. Technical Specifications

- 5.1. The Specifications for the Quality Labels for Sulphuric Acid-Based Anodizing of Aluminium QUALANOD and the Specifications for a Quality Label for Paint, Lacquer and Powder Coatings on Aluminium for Architectural Applications QUALICOAT are the technical specifications and the administrative rules QUALISURFAL shall use.
- 5.2. QUALANOD and QUALICOAT are responsible for any additions and/or modifications to the technical papers.

6. Specifications for Testing procedures

- 6.1. QUALISURFAL shall fix the modalities and form technical sub-committees if necessary for the following tasks:
- Audit of validation of Test Tools against standardized test suites;
 - Harmonization of Test Reports pro-formas;
 - **Harmonization of testing procedures;**
 - **Definition of specific technical requirements in addition to the accreditation of testing labs;**
 - Definition of the statistical parameters for each test programme with interlaboratory tests;
 - Give advice to (and take advice from) test developers as required;
 - To establish the equivalence of additional test tools.
- 6.2. The Agreement group shall form separate sections for Anodizing and Coating.

7. Finances

- 7.1. Travelling and meeting expenses for the meetings of the participating members of QUALISURFAL shall be agreed by the national General Licence Holders of QUALANOD and QUALICOAT. QUALANOD and QUALICOAT shall also offer their Secretariat free of charge to QUALISURFAL.
- 7.2. All other costs shall be borne by the participating members.

8. Co-operation with QUALANOD and QUALICOAT

The co-operation between QUALISURFAL Group and the two owners of the Quality Labels shall be ruled by separate Agreements.

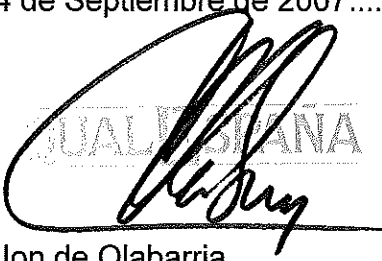
9. Withdrawal

A participating body may withdraw from the Agreement by notifying through the Secretariat all other participating bodies as well as QUALANOD and QUALICOAT twelve months before the end of adherence.

These Articles amended at the Meeting of Association Members held on 30/31 October 2006 supersede the Articles dated 21 October 2002.

Member name and address: QUALESPAÑA.....
 Príncipe de Vergara, 74
 ES-28006 Madrid
 España

Date and legal signature: 4 de Septiembre de 2007



Jon de Olabarria